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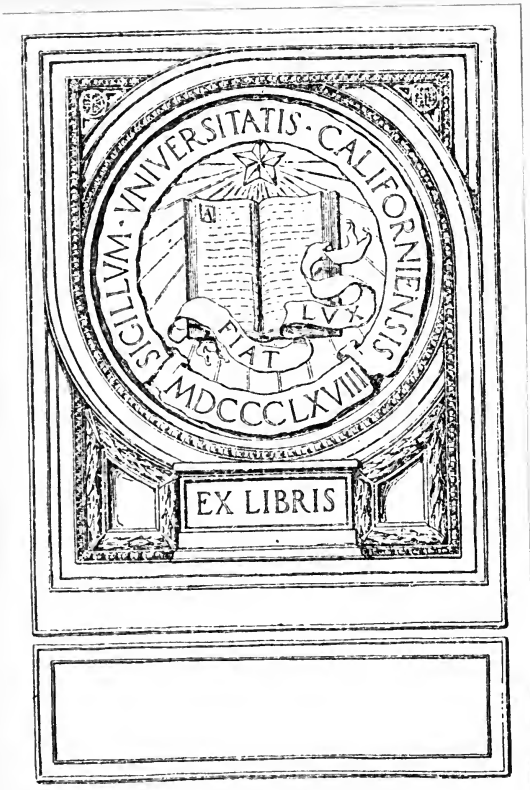
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TRUTH WILL OUT!

THE FOUL CHARGES

OF THE

TORIES

AGAINST THE

EDITOR of the *AURORA*

REPELLED by *POSITIVE* PROOF and PLAIN TRUTH

AND

HIS BASE CALUMNIATORS PUT TO SHAME.

[*Price*—Two Cents.]

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PREFATORY REMARKS.

FOR ſome time paſt the Editor of the Aurora has experienced perſecution in almoſt every ſhape. A free preſs is a moſt formidable engine to tyrants of every deſcription; and when it was determined to enliſt this country on the ſide of deſpotiſm and then to paſs alien, treaſon and ſedition bills, that have not a parallel even in the Britiſh code, it was neceſſary to put down the preſs.

Combinations were firſt tried to deprive the Editor of ſupport; but independence enough was found in the Public to baffle the attempt; and tho' by this means the eſtabliſhment of the Aurora has not been as lucrative as it might have been, it has been ſufficiently ſo to ſupport itſelf and its editor.

The friends of order next tried aſſaſſination. The cowardly, premeditated and unprovoked attack on him on board the frigate, in which his life was put in jeopardy, alſo failed of ſucceſs. The champion of the faction, on this occaſion, was proſecuted to conviction; but his fine was paid for him; and he has ſince been ſent by the Federal Executive in a public capacity to France, tho' ſtill under the operation of the ſentence pronounced againſt him, by a State Tribunal; according to which he was bound over to keep the peace for a certain term.

For aſſerting the freedom of his preſs againſt the arbitrary mandate of the Speaker of the Houſe, the Editor next was, by the Speaker, removed from the floor of the Houſe, and thus prevented from furniſhing his paper with a ſketch of the debates. This act of tyranny might have had a double effect: To injure his preſs and to prevent a free and firm ſtatement of the proceedings from meeting the public eye.

To enumerate the many ſubordinate attempts to ruin the Editor, or to awe him into a baſe dereliction of his duty would not come within the object of theſe few pages. The attack of a loyal mob upon his houſe on the 7th of May laſt ſhould not, however, be paſſed in total ſilence. This was, however, of all others the moſt unfortunate for the abettors of it: It ſerved only to convince the Editor of the number and ſpirit of his friends; who ſhewed themſelves, in conſequence of that outrage, determined, if violence was offered to his perſon or property, to aſſiſt him in repelling force by force.

Finding, ſo far, that combinations, threats and perſecutions had no effect in moving or intimidating the Editor, it was next attempted, ſince his exertions in the cauſe of republicaniſm and

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truth could not be paralyzed, to deſtroy their effect, by rendering his character infamous in the eyes of the People. The tools of the faction connected with the adminiſtration, and their creatures enjoying legiſlative powers and prerogatives, for this purpoſe, denounced the Editor as an agent of the French and paid by them. The venal preſſes of the faction, of courſe echoed the charge. It was expected, that the Public mind might be warped by the boldneſs and ſolemnity of the accuſation, if it appeared ſupported by the ſlighteſt colourable circumſtance, and that the Editor, from the difficulty of proving a negative, would not be able to exculpate himſelf; eſpecially as the proof of his innocence was to be withheld. But in this attempt alſo the faction have been completely foiled. The Editor dared his calumniators to the proof; expoſed their inconſiſtent and contrary ſtories; proved his innocence and has held them up in the light they merited,—as falſe and malicious detractors, and as the vile interceptors of private correſpondence,—for which they may poſſibly yet be proſecuted.

The Editor has found it out of his power to make truth, in this tranſaction, pierce thro' the miſrepreſentation of bitter enmity and the prejudices of party malice. Many preſſes publiſhed with avidity the charges againſt the Editor and have been dilatory or have altogether refuſed, to publiſh the vindication.—Thouſands of handbills have, beſides, been ſcattered to injure him with thoſe who do not read his paper;—it was of courſe neceſſary to take this method of diffuſing the antidote. The attention of the reader is reſpectfully called to the following pages. It will be ſeen, that the accuſation, in the various ſhapes it aſſumed, is given as well as the vindication,—a proof that truth and juſtice are the objects of this publication.

On the very day this dark conſpiracy againſt the character of the Editor was fully unveiled, and charges againſt his calumniators of a deep die, ſupported by proof, were produced,—a proſecution was inſtituted againſt him for a libel on the Preſident. On the merits of this it would be improper to ſay a word. The Editor has not a doubt, that it will furniſh him with another cauſe of triumph; even if he is obliged to ſubmit to the aſſumed juriſdiction of the Federal Court, and be tried by a Jury ſummoned by an officer, appointed by the party that received the alledged injury.

Much hope is, however, entertained, that the *Liberty of the Preſs* will not be ſuffered to remain upon that baſis; but that the State Courts will aſſert their excluſive juriſdiction in the caſe; and that thoſe of the Federal government will not contend for ground not warranted by the Conſtitution, and even diſcountenanced by an able opinion delivered by one of the preſiding Federal Circuit Judges.

TRUTH WILL OUT!

From the Aurora of Tuesday June 19.

Yesterday in the Federal House of Representatives, the last dispatches from our Commissioners which were drawn forth by the publication of the Important State Paper in Saturday's Aurora, were laid before that body, and gave occasion to Mr. Thatcher to make the following observations.

"Mr. Thatcher hoped a much larger number would be printed. He hoped it would be at least 20000. It was well known that the letter of Talleyrand had already been printed in the French paper in this city, and he had no doubt by order of the French Directory. And he believed an uncommon number had been printed of that letter; at least the *French Printer* of this city says so. When therefore, he saw the Executive Directory, and its agents, taking such extraordinary means to spread Talleyrand's letter, he wished the House to take equal pains to publish the answer of the envoys to it, which he thought satisfactory and incontrovertible.

Mr. T. Claiborne, asked what evidence the gentleman had of the agency he had mentioned?

"Mr. Thatcher replied, that he considered the *French Printer* of this city, who had published this letter of Talleyrand, *as an agent of the French Directory, and he hoped soon to be able to convince the house of the fact by satisfactory evidence.*"

Few members could have been found in the house so devoid of *honor* and *spirit*, as to have done the *job* which it fell to the lot of Mr. Thatcher to perform in the House yesterday. It required a man whose *cowardice* stood upon record, and who it was therefore certain would skulk behind his privilege, to throw out an *insult* against a fellow citizen, who was deprived of the opportunity of repelling the attack, at the time and in the place it was given.

This attack is a link of the chain of persecution by which it is attempted to injure the Aurora and muzzle the press: The faction know their deeds will not bear the light.

Mr. Thatcher's charge against us, we say, is a *base calumny*;—it is *false*. He has promised proof in support of it to the House.

We *dare* him to the ſcrutiny, even before the tribunal he has choſen, and ſhall not ceaſe to call on him for the evidence which he pretends to be in poſſeſſion of.

From the Gazette of the United States of laſt evening.

In the beginning of laſt week arrived in this city, Mr. Keeder from Paris, with diſpatches from the French Directory to Benjamin Franklin Bache, printer of the Aurora, under the ſeal of Mr. Talleyrand, which Mr. Keeder punctually delivered. He bro't alſo a letter from Mr. Talleyrand, under ſeal to a gentleman at New-York, which he alſo delivered at that city. The State Paper printed in the Aurora on Saturday laſt, being Mr. Talleyrand's letter to our envoys, was a part of theſe diſpatches, and what the reſidue are has not yet tranſpired.

From the Philadelphia Gazette of laſt evening.

How the Editor of the Aurora got Mr. Talleyrand's letter.

A gentleman from France declares that on board the veſſel in which he came there was a large packet bearing the ſeal of the office of Exterior Relations, directed to Benjamin Franklin Bache, and another directed to a perſon in New York, which were delivered to the care of a Mr. Lee who was a paſſenger, but quitted the veſſel ſoon after her arrival on the coaſt. Theſe packets were delivered to Mr. Lee, by a clerk in Mr. Talleyrand's office, the very day upon which the letter to the envoys is dated, March 18.

[In anſwer to both of the above paragraphs (which it will be ſeen do not agree with each other) we can only at preſent ſay; that it is a *lie* that we received the letter from France. More of this in our next.] *Edit. of Aurora.*

From the Aurora, of Thursday June 21.

TALLEYRANDS LETTER.

The following affidavit will ſave thoſe that know the Editor, the trouble of wading through the ſubjoined lengthy detail.

City of Philadelphia, ſſ.

ON the 20th of June, 1798, perſonally appeared before me, Hilary Baker, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin Bache; who being duly ſworn depoſed and ſaid:—That the letter ſigned Ch. Mau. Talleyrand, which appeared in his newſpaper, called the Aurora, on Saturday laſt, was not received by him from France; that it was delivered to him for

publication by a gentleman in this city; and that he never received the letter said to have been put into the post office for him in a piece signed John Kidder, published in Claypole's American Daily Advertiser of the 19th inst. And further the deponant says not.

BENJ. FRANKLIN BACHE,

Sworn before me,
HILARY BAKER, Mayor.

Since the publication of Talleyrand's letter to our Commissioners every effort has been made to divert the public attention from *its contents*, by making much noise about the *manner* in which it came into print. Its publication had a tendency to counteract the system of alarm, which it has been the *avowed* object of the Tories to encourage; and to dispel the misrepresentations by which the people are attempted to be persuaded into a belief, that the views of the French are decidedly hostile to this country. The publisher therefore could not be forgiven, and for this single act he has been *honoured* with a greater portion of persecution from the faction, than had before fallen to his share for all his labours. The tools of the British faction basely libelled him on the floor of Congress, as an agent of the French, and their venal presses attempted to fix the charge, by bringing forward something that *looked like* evidence, of his having received the letter in question from the French Department of Foreign Affairs. We shall see how a plain tale shall put them down.

Fenno first began by asserting in his *pensioned* Gazette, that a "Mr. Kidder had arrived from Paris with dispatches from the French Directory to the Printer of the Aurora, under the seal of Mr. Talleyrand, which he punctually delivered."

Fenno was called upon to know where Kidder was to be found, and he was waited on twice on the day of the publication of Fenno's lying paragraph; but was not to be met with.

The next day John Kidder published in the American Daily Advertiser of this city, that Mr. Lee, a fellow passenger in the Snow William from France "had desired him to take charge of a number of letters addressed to different persons in America; among others one to Benj. Frankling Bache, another to Genet of Long Island;" but that "he delivered the letters at the Post-Office."

Upon this it will be remarked, that Kidder's *first story* contradicts Fenno's statement. Kidder, it seems, would not publish (whatever he might have said,) that he had punctually deli-

vered the letter to the Editor of Aurora ; but only, that he put it into the Poſt-Office.

In company with a friend, the Editor called on John Kidder ; when the following converſation took place. This ſtatement of it (with a candor which his conduct little meritted ; but a deſire to avoid all cavil prompted) was ſubmitted, to and corrected by himſelf.

Subſtance of a converſation between B. F. Bache and J. Kidder, June 19.

B. You have publiſhed in a paper of this morning, that a letter was given to you directed to me and ſealed with the ſeal of the French Department of Foreign Affairs.

K. Yes.

B. Who delivered it to you ?

K. Mr. Lee.

B. Where was it delivered to you ?

K. At Paris or Bourdeaux. I do not well recollect which.

B. In your publication you ſay, that you aſked Mr. Lee what it contained ; what reply did he make ?

K. He ſaid he believed it contained a pamphlet written by a young man in Talleyrand's office.

B. Did he give it to you with any myſtery ; with any injunction of ſecrecy, or requeſt that you would deliver it into my own hand ?

K. No.

B. What was the name of the young man who was ſaid to have written the pamphlet ?

K. I dont remember.

B. Was it Pichon ?

K. Some ſuch name.

B. What did you do with the letter delivered to you by Mr. Lee for me ?

K. I believe it went into the Poſt-Office with the others committed to my care. I put all into the letter bag and went with them to the Poſt-Office in this city.

B. It is ſtrange then that I have not received it ?

K. Perhaps it might have been taken out of my trunk by captain Pender, of the St. Albans, who boarded us and examined ſome of my letters and detained ſome. It is even probable Mr Lee may have taken the letter directed to you to the Eaſtward. All I am poſitive of is, that there was ſuch a letter in my poſſeſſion.

Now for a few remarks on this converſation, pruned as it has been by Kidder's own hand.

First, as to the charge of treasonable correspondence. With the citizen Pechon I was acquainted while a private individual in this country. He was afterwards employed under two successive French Embassies here, and our acquaintance continued and grew into intimacy. If this was treason I have been a traitor years since, and traitors are more numerous than has been generally supposed. Since his departure, which was in the summer of '95, I have written to him once or twice, and have received one letter from him, the political part of which I published in my paper. Does this look like a treasonable correspondence. It is no more than probable, from citizen Pichon's known talents, that he should have written a political pamphlet, and natural that he should wish to send me a copy of it. He probably accompanied it with a letter. Is it treason in me to receive a letter from him, written when no idea could be entertained in France that there would be a rupture between that country and this; or that I should write to him months before such an event was dreamt of here!

Besides writing in itself cannot be treasonable, it must be the nature of it, that shall stamp its character.

Citizen Pichon happens to be employed in the office of Foreign Affairs in France; he used the seal of that office in inclosing me his pamphlet. If he had written what could be construed as ground for a suspicion of treasonable correspondence, would he have put the seal of the office of Foreign Affairs on it; would he not have enjoined it on Mr. Lee to deliver the packet to myself; or if Mr. Lee had parted with it, would it have been to John Kidder, and then, without any injunction of secrecy or special charge?

But, I am tiring the patience of the reader in refuting a vague charge put in the mouth or George Thatcher, and attempting to prove a negative. I believe I have done this as satisfactorily as a negative can be proved. It was sufficient for me to deny the charge, to call on my calumniators for the proof; and which I here again defy them to produce: But my anxiety not to be even suspected by the most credulous of those who have heard the accusation has led me into this lengthy detail.

I now come more immediately to the examination of the assertion; "that I received the letter of Talleyrand directly from his office." I already remarked, that Kidder's *first story* contradicted Fenno's statement. He, it is seen, contradicts his publication, in his conversation. In the former he asserts; that he put the letter in the post-office. In the latter; that he believed he put it in; or perhaps it might have been taken by captain Pender; or may be, Mr. Lee had it yet. And it was on the evidence of this man, who stands thus self contradicted that it

was aſſerted, the Directory had ſent me Talleyrand's letter.—This contradictory evidence of Kidder, if not ſufficient to invalidate what he ſays, would at leaſt raiſe a doubt of my having received the packet he ſpeaks of, and conſequently the letter of Talleyrand in the manner aſſerted. We will now *prove* that we did not receive it.

The bag of the William was delivered into the poſt-oſſice by John Kidder on the 11th of June and the letters ſent out on the ſame day. The following lines prove, that on the 11th of June I received no ſhip letter; of courſe if Kidder put my letter into the poſt-office, they have it yet to account for: If he did not, I could not have received it as is aſſerted.

Philadelphia, June 19th, '98.

In our preſence Benj. Franklin Bache, aſked the letter carrier, who ſerves the diſtrict of the city in which he reſides, what poſtage charge ſtood againſt him of the 11th of June? He examined his book and anſwered, three cents; which upon enquiry, he explained to be for a "dropt in letter;" not a poſt, neither a ſhip, letter.

FREDK. WOOLBERT,
M. LEIB.

I have gone through this lengthy detail chiefly to ſhew, by ſifting them, the groundleſsneſs of the calumnies of which the Tories are ſo laviſh, and to avoid ſatisfying them as to the ſource from which I really had the letter. The adminiſtration, however we doubt not by this time, have diſcovered whence; they are welcome to make it known; and if at the ſame time they can inform me where I ſhall find my letter, ſaid to be ſealed with the ſeal of the French Department of Foreign Affairs, they will much oblige me. Even if the ſeal ſhould be broken or the letter defaced, I ſhall attribute it to accident, and never ſuſpect them of having done either. Provided the pamphlet be whole, they will receive the thanks of THE EDITOR OF THE AURORA.

FROM THE AURORA, OF SATURDAY JUNE 23.

From the N. York-Gazette.

To the Printers of the New-York Gazette.

IN a hand bill iſſued from your preſs this morning, I obſerved a note ſigned "John Kidder," in which Mr. Lee is mentioned as being the bearer of letters from the office of the French Miniſter of Foreign Affairs to citizen Bache and Genet. In juſtice to Mr. Lee, and to prevent Mr. Kidder's note from having an impreſſion on the public mind, which I am confident he did not intend, I ſtate the following circumſtances:

Mr. Lee, Mr. Kidder, and myſelf, were fellow traveſlers from Paris to Bourdeaux. Mr. Lee's departure having been talked of for a conſiderable time before he left Paris, many letters were committed to his care, which he looked over and aſſorted in our preſence. Several letters ſealed with the ſeal of the Miniſter of Foreign affairs and addreſſed to the citizens Monroe, Genet, Bache and, I believe, to ſome other perſons of the ſame deſcription excited Mr. Lee's curioſity not leſs than the reſt of the paſſengers; and he, in particular, ſuggeſted that they ought to be ſent to the office of the Secretary of State. Mr. Lee, as well as myſelf left the veſſel at ſea: And, in the hurry of aſſorting the letters for their different deſtinations, I preſume he left with Mr. Kidder, who remained on board, ſome of the letters in queſtion.

If my teſtimony could add any thing to Mr. Lee's reputation, I ſhould take a pleaſure in ſaying that he is one of the very few Americans of reſpectable character, who have lately reſided in France. He has always appeared to retain a warm attachment to this country, and to feel a ſincere deteſtation for the Americans in France, whoſe hoſtility to our government has had ſo conſiderable a ſhare in producing the preſent ſtate of things.

SAMUEL M. HOPKINS.

New-York, June 20.

To the Printers of the New-York Gazette.

Gentlemen,

As the public ſeem to ſuppoſe that I am criminated in Mr. Kidder's note which appeared in a handbill this morning, I take the occaſion ſimply to aſſert that I knew nothing of the contents of the letters addreſſed to Mr. Bache, and others, bearing the ſeal of the French Miniſter of Foreign affairs. That I do not even know who delivered them to me, and that I did not notice them particularly till after being at ſea. It was by miſtake that ſome of them were left with Mr. Kidder. The others have been delivered up to Government.

WILLIAM LEE.

New-York, June 20.

Remarks by the Editor of the Aurora.

It will be ſeen, that the intimation we gave in our laſt obſervations on this tranſaction, is ſtrengthened by the above. We believe now, that we ſhall be able to turn the tables upon the hatchers of conſpiracies in Congreſs. We crave a little patience from our readers on this head. We ſhall at preſent only remark, that Mr. Lee's ſtatement contradicts ſuch parts of Kidder's as he has not already contradicted himſelf. Kidder ſtated, that Mr. Lee gave him ſome account of the contents of our letter. Mr. Lee ſays he knew nothing of its contents. Mr. Lee ſays he did not notice it particlarly till after being at ſea. Hopkins affirms,

that in the hurry of leaving the ſhip at ſea ſome of the letters in queſtion, he preſumed, were left with Kidder who remained on board. Kidder ſays they were given him at Paris or Bourdeaux. Mr. Lee ſays, that ſome were left with Kidder by miſtake. Kidder aſſerts that he was deſired to take charge of them in France. We pity poor Kidder. He has been prevailed upon to be the ſtalking horſe in this pitiful contrivance to injure us, and has not had the brains to tell a ſtreight ſtory.

We think there is evidence enough now before thy public to induce a belief, that the letters in queſtion are in the hands of the Government. The *unaccountable* ſingularity of their ſtate (a treaſonable correſpondence with a government ſeal to it!) gave riſe, no doubt, to all the rumours, which have been ſo induſtriouſly ſpread within theſe few days, of the arreſtation of the Editor of the Aurora; and to the denunciations on the floor of Congreſs againſt him, by George Thatcher and Robert G. Harper. But why has he not been arreſted; how comes it that Harper now intimates, *that he is not quite ſure whether he has not loſt the clue of conſpiracy*, and why is Thatcher, when called upon to bring forward his proofs,—*mute?* It is becauſe the adminiſtration have not dared to violate the ſeals of private letters. Perhaps it was hoped by thoſe choice ſpirits in adminiſtration into whoſe hands the letters firſt fell, that ſomething like law might be found to juſtify ſuch a proceeding; but we have good reaſon to believe, that, upon adviſement, it was found impoſſible to commit ſo great an outrage; and we congratulate the Public that adminiſtration were not found baſe enough to commit an act that would diſgrace the moſt deſpotic government. We have not a doubt but that finally, the letter directed to us will reach us ſafe and whole; when our readers ſhall hear from us on this ſubject, if not before.

From the Aurora, of Monday, June 25.

THE PLOT UNRAVELLED.

The lateſt artifice employed by the Tory faction, to injure the Aurora has been the accuſation directed againſt its Editor, by two of its moſt deſpicable inſtruments on the floor of Congreſs. that he was a French agent. With the boldneſs of conſcious innocence we publicly called upon thoſe men to bring forward their evidence; the call was reiterated: They were challenged, in the houſe to produce their proofs, and one was obliged to acknowledge, that he believed he had loſt the threads of conſpiracy which he thought himſelf in poſſeſſion of; the other was forced to hold his tongue. In the mean time, however, the preſſes devoted to the faction ſpread the poiſon far and wide, and teemed with abuſe againſt the Editor of the Aurora as a foreign agent.

We purſued our calumniators through all their windings and we believe ſo ſucceſsfully; that there cannot remain on the minds of thoſe who have read both ſides a doubt but that we did not receive Talleyrand's letter directly from France, and that the packet ſealed with the ſeal of the French office of Foreign Affairs contained nothing improper.

We are now, however enabled to place theſe points beyond the poſſibily of cavil or doubt. It will be remembered; that we were ſaid to have received the letter of the French Miniſter of Foreign Affairs in a packet through Kidder, and when we proved, that we did not, it was conteſted, that there was in exiſtence ſuch a letter as Kidder deſcribed, and that as it was ſealed with a French official ſeal, it muſt contain ſomething treaſonable. This myſterious packet, that was to have given ſo ſure a clue to a moſt dangerous conſpiracy we at length received on Saturday from Timothy Pickering; the ſeal, in appearance in act. We detained the meſſenger and kept in his view till two gentlemen could be called in to be witneſſes at its being opened, and the following is the reſult of the examination they made of its contents.

Certificate.

We do hereby certify that, at the requeſt of Benj. Franklin Bache. we were preſent at the opening of a packet directed "Au Citoyen B. F. Bache imprimeur a Philadelphie,"‖ ſealed with a ſeal round which were inſcribed the words "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE" and at the" bottom "Relations Exterieures"*, which packet was delivered to Mr. Bache by a meſſenger from the Secretary of State of the United States. The only things contained in the ſaid packet were two pamphlets printed in the French language one entitled "Lettre d'un Francais a M. Pitt"†; and the othe other "Seconde Lettre d'un Francais a M. Pitt" both directed "B. F. Bache de la part du Cn. Pichon"‡. We examined the ſaid pamphlets and the cover in which they were encloſed, and excepting the directions (and the receipts on the cover ſigned "Oliv: Wolcot." and "T. Pickering") there was not a ſingle word in manuſcript either on the cover or the pamphlets, nor was there any letter or paper written or printed except the ſaid pamphlets contained in the packet. We further certify that the meſſenger from the Secretary of State was in the room at Mr. Bache's houſe when we entered it.

MATTHEW CAREY,
JOSEPH CLAY.

Philadelphia 23d June, 1798.

‖ [To citizen B. F. Bache, printer at Philadelphia.] * [Foreign Affairs.] † [Letter of a Frenchman to Mr. Pitt.] ‡ [B. F. Bache from Citoyen Pichon.]

On the back of the letter above the ſeal was written, "Received, June 20, from William Lee, Oliv. Wolcott," and unde the ſeal, "Received in the mail from New-York, June 22d, 1798, T. Pickering."

Thus we ſee, that all the calumnies which have been uttered againſt the Editor within theſe few days, all the reports to his prejudice have taken their riſe from his having tranſmitted to him from France two pamphlets on *Engliſh* affairs; and which from beginning to end do not even contain one ſingle word reſpecting this country.

As far as we are now informed, we believe the following a pretty accurate ſketch of the courſe this affair has taken in the Executive. They were probably informed by William Lee, when he tranſmitted the diſpatches to government, that ſuch and ſuch letters were in his poſſeſſion, requeſting to know whether he ſhould deliver them up to them, or to their addreſs. This is ſuppoſed to have taken place the end of the week before laſt. The ſubject was a delicate one. To diſcover any thing, which could be perverted to feed the preſent flagging ſyſtem of alarm, was a temptation ſcarcely to be reſiſted, but on the other hand, to receive another man's property, without authority or law, was a hazardous ſtep. It was determined finally, however, as we ſuppoſe, that Oliver Wolcott ſhould go to New-York, which he did about a week ago, to view theſe ſuſpected letters, and to pick up ſuch information as might enable adminiſtration to determine, whether it was worth while to violate every principle of law and honor to get at their contents. But while this diſgraceful journey was performing, it was thought policy to enable two of the mouth-pieces of adminiſtration in Congreſs to throw out, by anticipation, thoſe charges againſt the Editor, which it was expected the contents of the packet would enable them to eſtabliſh (how proper ſome perſons are to ſuſpect their neighbours !). Beſides it was calculated, that ſuch charges uttered againſt him in ſo reſpectable a place as the Houſe of Repreſentatives, would have great effect in injuring him, eſpecially as it was ten to one the Editor would not be able (from the difficulty of proving a negative) fully to exculpate himſelf.

If the packet was found to contain nothing of moment, it was only to deſtroy it, and captain Pender could bare the blame of having taken it; ſtill there would have been ſuch a packet, and this was enough to found a cloud of vague calumnies upon. From ſuch toils the Editor's eſcape has been providential. Kidder's publication was directed againſt the Editor; but it implicated Lee, and Lee to exculpate himſelf was obliged to declare the letters had been given up to government: The Secretaries therefore became anſwerable for them, and the packets were oblig-

ed to be produced, for fear of the disgrace which a prosecution, for detaining property not belonging to them, must have occasioned.

While this base business of *espionage* was pursuing, another method was attempted to confound the Editor, if possible. Reports were industriously spread, that he was arrested,—that he was in jail,—that he had fled. Thro' a channel, almost official, he learnt, that the order was actually signed for his arrestation. What was the object of these reports? It was hoped that they might intimidate; that if he had the most remote fear that the least suspicious circumstance was in possession of his enemies he would be induced to fly. But what was his conduct. Shrouded in conscious innocence he braved their most envenomed malice. When denounced on the floor of Congress he did not truckle to his calumniators; but dared them to the proof, and gave them the epithets their conduct deserved. Neither was the spirit of his paper cowed. His readers will testify, that from the dawn of this week's persecution it rose in its spirit,—and so it ever shall; persecution shall only fan the flame of his detestation for those whom he considers the enemies of the best interests of his country. They shall not make him abandon his post for fear of a trial even before their tribunals. He will ever prefer death, as a victim, to a flight that would render his innocence suspected. This is high language, it will be said. It is the language of injured and triumphant innocence. Perhaps administration may not understand it.

To return to the journey to New York. An inspection of the packets to Messrs. Monroe, Genet and the Editor, as well as those to "other persons of the same description" was probably sufficient to convince the most sceptic, that they contained nothing but a pamphlet. Their uniform size, shape, weight, &c. and the uniformity of the hand-writing on the cover was evidence incontrovertible, that they came from the same person and contained the same thing. If Lee had written to the Secretary, as he told Kidder, that he was informed they contained pamphlets—it might have lowered his importance in this business, but would have saved Oliver Wolcott a warm and dusty ride to New York and back. If the outward appearance of the packets had not been sufficient to give an idea of their contents would not our Secretary have found himself in an ugly dilemma? There are certainly means well known of opening packets and sealing them again, when curiosity is satisfied; but we warrant our young government is totally ignorant of them; and if informed of them would certainly not be base enough to put them in practice. Yet did Oliver Wolcott journey to New York only to look at the outside of these mysterious bundles; or was he to

put in poſſeſſion of the contents by ſome magic, without violating the ſeals?

So far as the Secretary Wolcott went in this buſineſs, he went not only without law, but againſt law; and he has had the folly by his receipt to give proof of it. The letter directed to the Editor was his property: What right had Oliver Wolcott to receive it? and then to ſend it to a third perſon? Who told him that we were willing to truſt him with a letter? Suppoſe we ſhould undertake to receive a letter directed to him, or any other property, detain it a time, and then tranſmit it to a third perſon, would he not conſider himſelf injured, and could he not obtain redreſs? But our caſe is ſtronger ſtill. In the beginning of the week reports are ſpread intended to ruin us in character and in fortune, and the proofs of our innocence are kept back by thoſe who were concerned in originating thoſe reports; for where elſe could members of the Legiſlature get information on which they could ſo poſitively commit themſelves. Can conduct be more attrocious.

And who are the perſons who have taken upon themſelves thus to violate and injure the rights and character of the Editor? They are officers not even known to the Conſtitution; mere creatures of the Executive, ſubject to his will and pleaſure, and independent of the People. Shall ſuch men be permitted to place themſelves above the law, with impunity; to intercept private correſpondence and run down private character? If they are not brought before the courts of juſtice for their arrogance, it is becauſe the tribunal of the preſs is more formidable to them.

As to the calumnies which have been uttered againſt the Editor on the floor of Congreſs; his calumniators there are in a meaſure beyond his reach. They cannot be queſtioned for what they ſay in the reſpectable character of Repreſentatives of the People, and they are ſheltered by their privilege. It is true, that what they utter in that ſolemn place, which holds, concentered, the majeſty of the ſovereign People, may be commented on in the papers; but the fugitive nature of the anſwer is futile contraſted with the ſolemnity of the accuſation. The Editor thinks, therefore, that he has a juſt claim on George Thatcher and Robert G. Harper to declare, whether the ideas reſpecting him, to which they gave body in the debates of laſt week are not diſpelled by the proofs in this day's paper. If they have a ſenſe of honor left, they will feel, that it cannot be below their dignity to do juſtice to injured innocence; and their ſilence, while it deprives the Editor of plenery juſtice, can only diſgrace themſelves.